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ABSTRACT

One of a series of four reports on specific conservation themes, this report on forestry is intended to consolidate techniques which will best communicate the legislation, role, objectives and practices of the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority in retaining forest cover and extending it over additional areas. Facilities and programs used by the Kortright Centre for Conservation to give visitors an understanding and appreciation of the forest, its use, and its management as a renewable natural resource are described. Key elements of a successful program are listed as positive messages, relevance, entertaining presentation, and active participation. The components used to develop the Forestry Theme are described, and include audio/visual presentations, indoor exhibits, outdoor demonstrations and exhibits, and sale of related publications, merchandise and food (i.e. maple syrup). The final section outlines programs offered at the Centre for organized groups, such as classes or special interest clubs; for the general public; and for groups that use the Centre's facilities for meetings. (CM)

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KORTRIGHT CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

FORESTRY THEME

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KORTRIGHT CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

FORESTRY THEME

Allan Foster

for

T. E. Barber

THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

NOVEMBER, 1978

THE METROPOLITAN TORONTO AND REGION CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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1978.11.29

TO: Dr. T. H. Leith, Chairman and
Members of the Forestry Technical Review Committee
Kortright Centre for Conservation

The staff is pleased to submit this report on the Forestry Theme at the Kortright Centre for Conservation.

The report has been prepared at the direction of the Kortright Centre for Conservation Exhibit Committee. The purpose is to consolidate the techniques that will best communicate the Forestry Theme to the visitors. It is one of four reports detailing the Land, Water, Forest and Wildlife themes. The presentation of the themes is designed to reflect to the visitor the legislation, role and mandate, aims and objectives, and practices of the Authority and of the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Much progress has been made in developing some of the communication vehicles to be employed at the Kortright Centre, for example:

- several indoor exhibit preliminary designs have been developed and one prototypical exhibit completed;
- site plan of development of outdoor exhibits and demonstrations has been approved by the Authority;
- two slide shows, complete with sound, have been completed;
- two educational brochures relating to individual exhibits have been produced and are for sale;
- some merchandise related to specific exhibits has been developed and is for sale;
- some experimentation has been carried out by merchandising nutritious foods especially related to individual exhibits;
- a number of approaches to interpretation have been applied to the three main categories of visitors (public, group, seminars and banquets).

These communication vehicles -- audio/visuals, indoor exhibits, outdoor demonstrations and exhibits, sale of publications, merchandise and food, and programming, all contribute to the development of the individual themes at the Kortright Centre for Conservation.

The visitor's understanding of the theme will be enhanced by a balanced use of all of these communication tools, rather than just one or two.

This approach to theme presentation is intended to guide the developments for the first two years of operation at the Kortright Centre. As experience is gained, changes will be required. Each theme should be reviewed carefully every three years, to assure the Authority that the Kortright Centre is communicating the up-to-date objectives of the Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources to the visitor in a manner that will achieve the attendance targets.

T. E. Barber,
Administrator,
Information and Education Division.

TEB/mrp

I. PROVINCIAL LEGISLATION AND AUTHORITY POLICY

A Conservation Authority is established to ensure the wise management of renewable natural resources on a watershed basis.

> "the objectives of an authority are to establish and undertake in the area over which it has jurisdiction, a program designed to further the conservation, restoration, development and management of natural resources other than gas, coal, oil and minerals"
>
> - Section 19, The Conservation Authorities Act.

It is the goal of The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority to undertake such a program based on the following premises:

- that the major non-renewable natural resources in the Metropolitan Region are the Niagara Escarpment, the Oak Ridges Interlobate Moraine, the river valleys and the Lake Ontario shoreline;

- that the conservation, restoration, development and management of these natural resources requires an integrated, comprehensive watershed plan, which will guide development in the region in a way that recognizes ...

    (1) the limitations of the resources to accommodate use and development;

    (2) the role of the region in accepting provincial growth objectives;

    (3) the safety from flood and erosion hazards in the community;

(4) the role of the resources in contributing to safe and healthful life in the community;

(5) the role of management of the resources to accommodate, without destroying them, the demands of urban and rural communities.

II. AUTHORITY POLICY -- OUTDOOR AND CONSERVATION EDUCATION

The policies of The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority with respect to planning, development and management of its lands and facilities for educational purposes are based on the following positions:

(1) The role of the Authority is to manage its lands and facilities in such a way that opportunities for outdoor and conservation education are made available (this role is only a part of the total effort public agencies involved in education and conservation want to make to meet the demand for outdoor learning);

(2) The Outdoor and Conservation Education Program is now funded as a separate development in the same way as is other Authority development;

(3) There are many outdoor and conservation education opportunities which occur directly as a result of the Authority's recreation, flood control, waterfront, historic sites and land-use programs. These can be extended effectively by designating some tracts of conservation land specifically for outdoor and conservation education purposes.

In carrying out its responsibilities for outdoor and conservation education, it will be the policy of the Authority to:

(1) include opportunities for learning as an integral part of its conservation programs and facilities;

(2) protect natural areas which are sensitive to use, and which have unique characteristics important for learning opportunities, through proper management practices (this may include use by regulation);

(3) manage all lands, facilities and programs designated for outdoor and conservation education purposes in a manner consistent with the objectives of the Authority, in order that participants can be assured of a continuing viable resource base;

(4) consider the lands, projects and facilities of the Authority as the principal resources of the educational programs, and to provide suitable facilities to accommodate educational users, including residential accommodation, day-use accommodation, interpretive displays and demonstrations, visitor orientation facilities, trails and facilities for study and research;

(5) cooperate with other resource management agencies and educational institutions in the provision of outdoor learning opportunities, where such use is compatible with the programs of the Authority and to enter into agreements to give effect thereto;

(6) cooperate with other resource management agencies and educational institutions in providing opportunities for study and research where such activity is compatible with the objectives

of the Authority;

(7) carry out planning studies for determining the need to designate other tracts of land specifically for outdoor and conservation education purposes.

III. AUTHORITY POLICY -- FORESTRY

One of the resources managed by The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority is the forest land of the region. It is an objective of the Authority to retain the existing forest cover and to extend forest cover over additional areas.

It is the policy of the Authority to:

(1) designate lands for reforestation, using coniferous and deciduous species;

(2) manage areas for timber production and natural succession;

(3) include in forest management the provision of diversified wildlife habitats suitable for species native to the area;

(4) accommodate recreational uses within forest management areas where these uses are compatible with the designated forest management policy;

(5) enter into agreements with the Province of Ontario for the management of Authority forests by the Province;

(6) manage the forest resource in a manner consistent with policies established by the Provincial Government where these policies are appropriate to Authority lands;

(7) demonstrate forestry management and thus encourage sound forestry management throughout the watershed;

(8) enter into agreements with private land owners to develop new forests on private lands, through the conservation services program.

IV. AUTHORITY POLICY -- KORTRIGHT CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION

The Kortright Centre for Conservation is being established to demonstrate the concern of The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for the renewable natural resources of the watershed. The Centre is being designed to provide visitors with the opportunity to observe, and wherever possible, to experience on intimate terms the various aspects of man's involvement with the renewable natural resources of this part of Southern Ontario.

"Man's involvement" includes the management, use and enjoyment of the Land, Water, Forests and Wildife, to provide sustenance, prosperity and satisfaction for both urban and rural citizens of this region, in the past, the present and the future.

Management techniques and concerns will be compared from three periods:

- the past (1900 - 1935)
- contemporary
- the future (2025 AD)

Emphasis will be on the contemporary and future practices and uses of renewable natural resources.

V. INTERPRETATION PHILOSOPHY

There are four key elements to a successful interpretive program. These are: positive messages, relevance to the visitor, entertaining presentation and active participation.

All conservation messages will be presented in a positive manner.

It is important that both the language used and examples given be relevant to the visitor. Before a visitor can understand a new or complex principle, he must become familiar with the terminology. Interest will be generated if the message is practical and useful to the visitor.

The conservation message must be conveyed in an entertaining or enjoyable manner. A visitor can be exposed to new ideas, only if he is willing to listen to the message in the first place. A visitor will actively seek out new conservation information if this is a pleasurable and rewarding activity.

Involvement, especially the use of all five senses, creates the optimum learning situation. Visitors will be challenged to think about and react positively to the program.

VI. AIMS AND OBJECTIVES -- KORTRIGHT CENTRE FOR CONSERVATION - FORESTRY

The Forestry Theme requires the establishment of facilities and programs which provide an opportunity for the visitor to achieve a better understanding and appreciation of the forest, its use, and its management as a renewable natural resource.

The Kortright site and the surrounding area are the major frame of reference (80%) regarding the content of the interpretive program. The remaining 20% will illustrate other conservation activities of the Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

It is the objective of the Forestry Theme to:

(1) encourage citizen support for sound forest management practices;

(2) identify the forest resource;

(3) show man's impact on the resource;

(4) demonstrate the wise use and management of the forest;

(5) indicate man's dependence on products from the forest;

(6) communicate the role of private and government agencies (especially that of the Authority and the Ministry of Natural Resources) in good management of the resources;

(7) draw attention to the inter-relationships between the forest and other environmental resources;

(8) encourage sound forest management on private lands throughout the watershed and province;

VII. COMPONENTS OF THE FORESTRY THEME

All of the following components contribute to the development of the Forestry Theme:

(1) Audio/Visual Presentations

(2) Indoor Exhibit

(3) Outdoor Demonstration and Exhibit

(4) Sales of Publications, Merchandise and Food

The Kortright Centre for Conservation relates the themes Land, Water, Forest and Wildlife by focusing on natural and managed systems. Exhibit and demonstration priorities have been established on the basis of:

- the amount contributed by the exhibit to overall developments of the theme;
- the ability to stand alone;
- the ability to eventually fit into the entire theme storyline;
- the degree of visitor interest;
- cost.

1. Audio/Visual Component

Audio/Visual presentations of five to fifteen-minute duration, will be used for visitor orientation to the Forestry Theme, or to a specific aspect of forest conservation. The presentations viewed in the main theatre, will allow the staff to contact the visitors, assemble a group for other activities, generate interest in a theme and establish a good rapport. The following is a list of automated slide shows produced at the Kortright Centre for Conservation:

- MAPLE SYRUP: an introduction and guide to the Maple Syrup Demonstration
- SAWMILL: an introduction to the managed woodlot and to the function of the Sawmill; Authority woodlot management will be discussed
- WOOD CARVING: an artistic approach to wood carving; in this case, the production of sculptural wood decoys
- WORKSHOP: this will introduce the visitor to the machines in the Workshop; it will describe the steps necessary to fashion a finished piece from rough sawn lumber

- PHOTOSYNTHESIS: an introductory look at the process in a forest.

- REFORESTATION: a look at why and how the Authority plants trees; what land is reforested; where the trees come from; how forests are planted and how they are managed.

Several films will be acquired in order to present a more general picture of the forest resource. Among those given consideration:

- AIRCRAFT IN FOREST FIRE CONTROL -- National Film Board

- ANATOMY OF PAPER -- Abitibi Pulp and Paper Company

- A WALK IN THE FOREST -- a beautiful film on B.C. forest. MacMillan Bloedel Seymour Films

- LIFE IN THE WOODLOT -- ecological relationships between plants, animals and man -- National Film Board

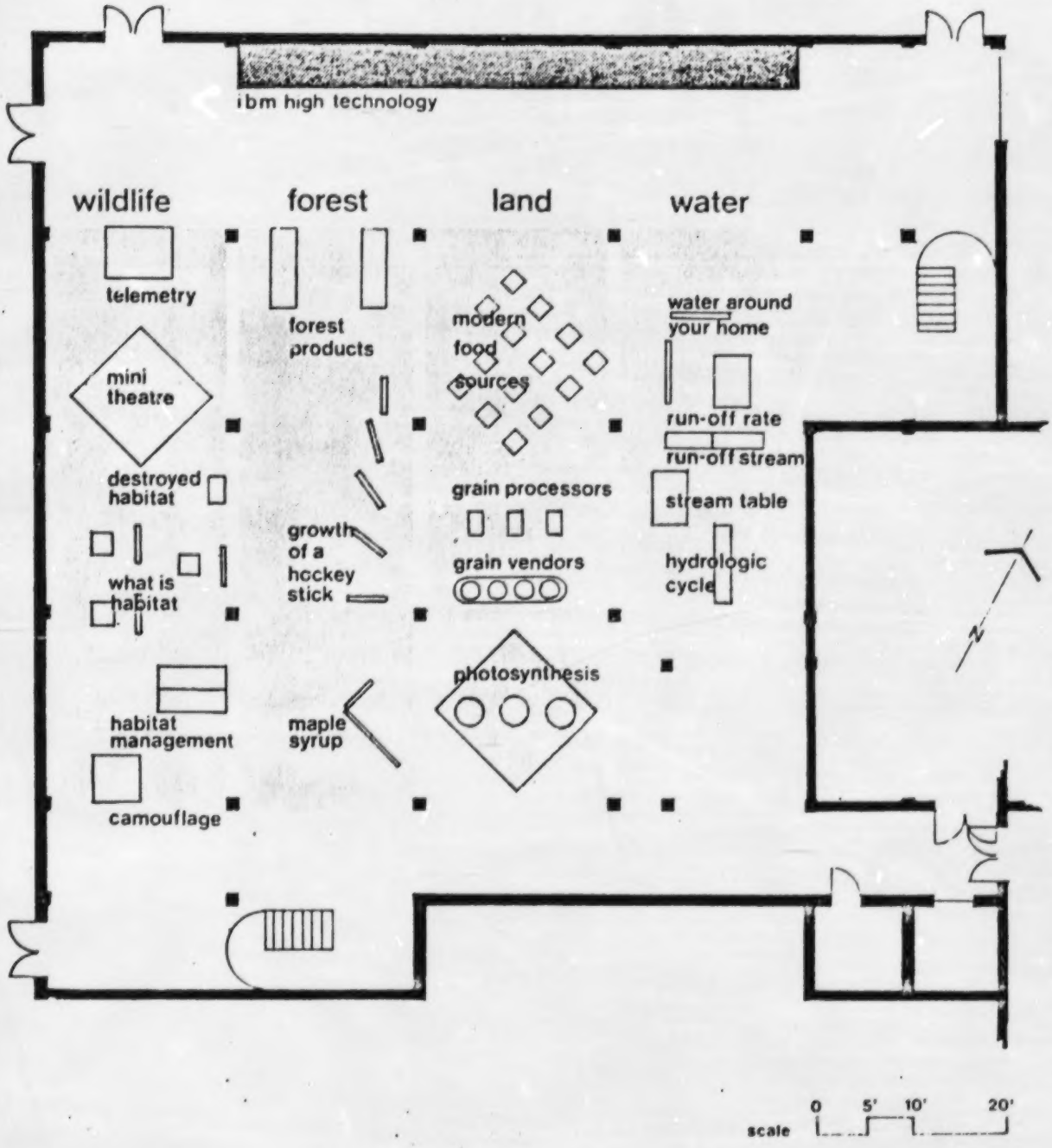
- SMALL SMOKE AT BLAZE CREEK -- forest fire in B.C. No commentary -- Canadian Forestry Service -- National Film Board

- THE FOREST TENT CATERPILLAR -- a description of the damage to deciduous forests caused by this insect -- National Film Board

- THE FOREST WATCHERS -- the use of remote sensing techniques in forestry management -- Environment Canada -- National Film Board

2. Indoor Exhibit Component

The exhibits in the Visitors Centre will function to generate interest in the Forestry Theme, as well as to provide fundamental information about the forest resource and its management. Indoor



the metropolitan toronto and region conservation authority

Indoor Exhibits

The Kortright Centre for Conservation

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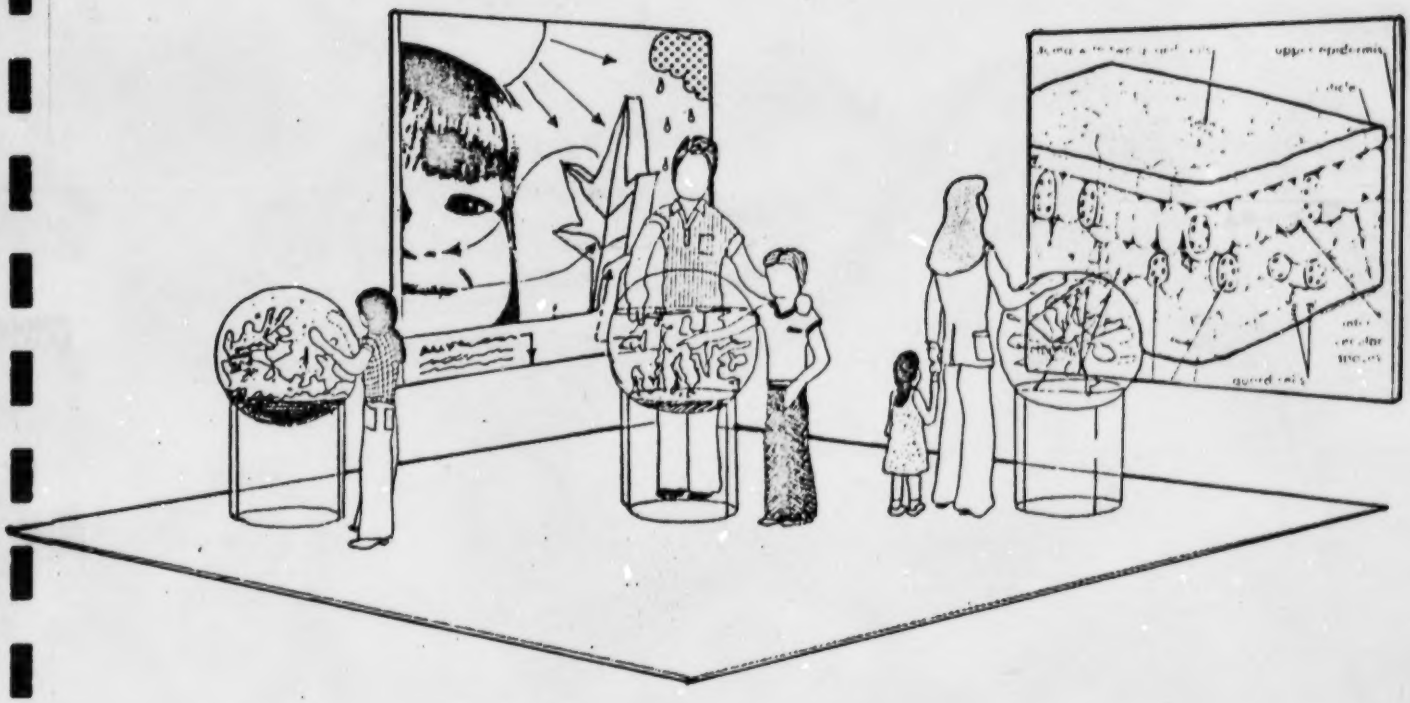
exhibits will not compete with resources or demonstrations found outside -- rather, they will elaborate on them. If a message is best stated outdoors, that is where the visitor will be exposed to it. The indoor exhibit component is designed to hold the visitor's attention for a maximum duration of one hour, and preferably less. The exhibit floors will act as holding areas where visitors may spend time until the next scheduled Audio/ Visual presentation or excursion.

- Photosynthesis: This exhibit, comprised of photographic panels and terrarium, will explain how green plants produce their own food. It will show how the food is either used for growth or stored for future growth. Examples will compare the forest species with agricultural crops. Add-on seasonal panels will relate this exhibit to maple syrup production, lumbering, food harvest and Fall colouration.

- Forest Products: A display illustrating the variety of products derived from the forest. Twenty-four actual products will be shown, ranging from turpentine and photographic film to thickener for ice cream. Each product will be behind a door. A question is asked on each door to encourage the visitor to seek the answer by raising the door. Most visitors will be surprised to learn the range of familiar household items made from wood.

- Maple Syrup: A small exhibit is being designed as an introduction to the actual outdoor demonstration. This will present a history of maple syrup production showing existing pictures and artifacts. Techniques and implements of the present or foreseen for the future will be displayed. It will also act as a guide or index to the demonstration.



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Indoor Exhibit: Photosynthesis

The Kortright Centre for Conservation

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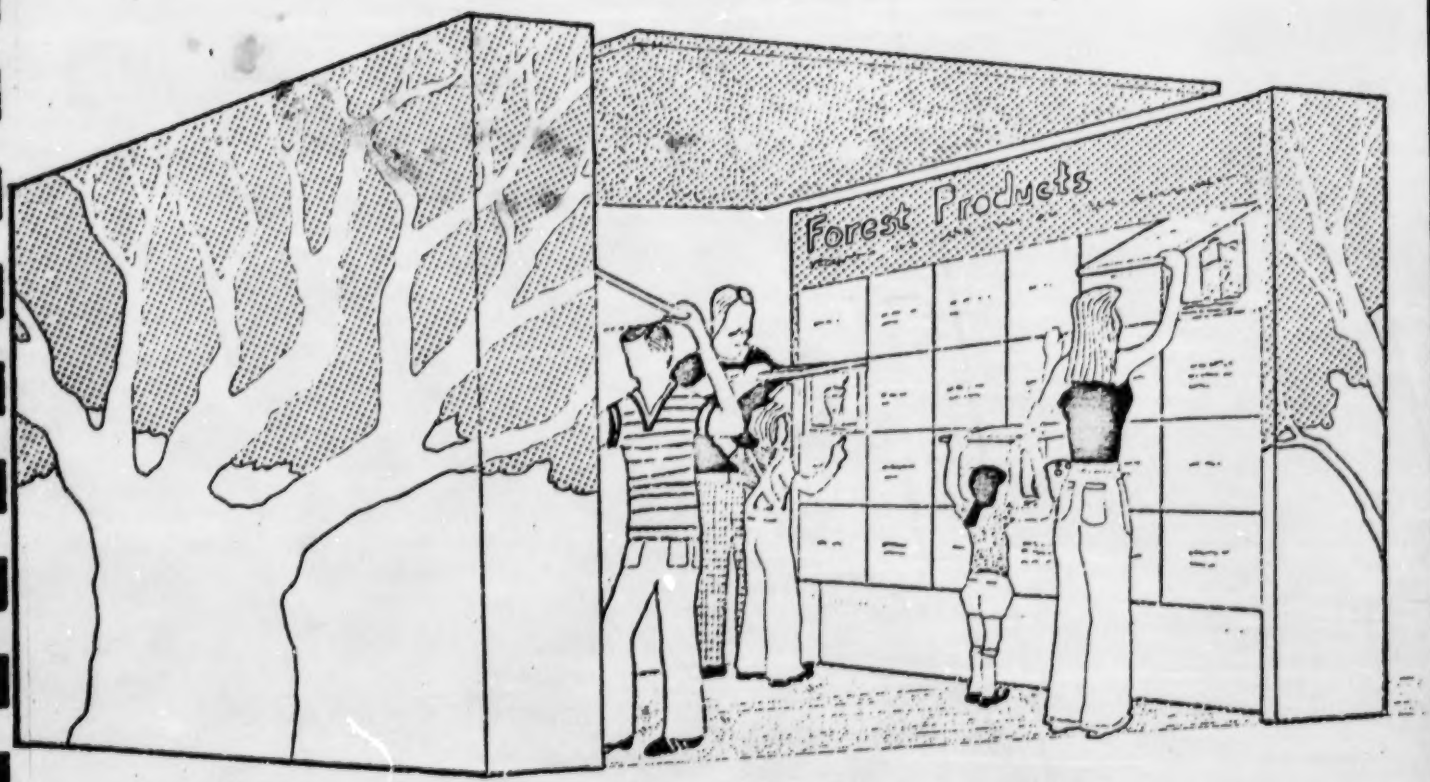

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Indoor Exhibit: Forest Products

The Kortright Centre for Conservation

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- Growth of a Hockey Stick: Hockey is the national sport. This exhibit will describe the growth of a tree and its ultimate use as a hockey stick. The story will be told by photographs and artifacts and will serve to introduce visitors to the demonstrations at the nursery, managed woodlot and sawmill. It will also describe the mechanics of a hockey stick and how wood fits that technology.

- Woodworking Shop: During specific limited times, the woodworking shop will become a demonstration area. Here, visitors will see wood being fashioned by the skilful use of machines. The different qualities of wood species will be featured. Some articles for sale will be produced by skilled craftsmen.

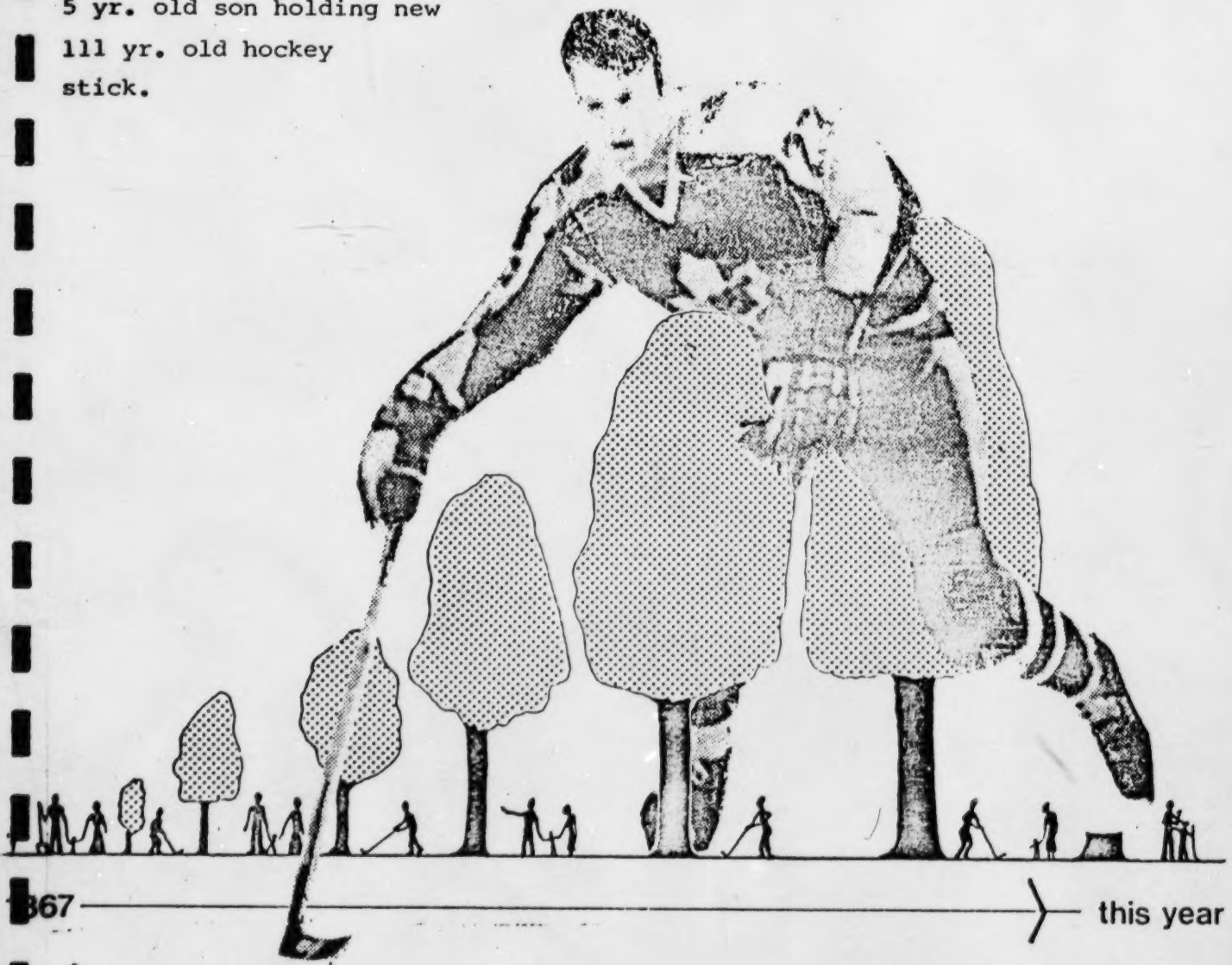
- Pulp and Paper: This exhibit will demonstrate how scraps from the sawmill and thinnings from the reforestation demonstration may be used to produce paper. A demonstration table will be included so that visitors can actively participate in the production of paper.

- Special Feature Exhibits: Museums, resource agencies, corporations and businesses create many outstanding exhibits related to the Forestry Theme each year. Produced for a variety of audiences and in a multiplicity of events, some of these exhibits could be displayed as special feature at the Kortright Centre for Conservation. While substantially contributing to the theme, these special exhibits will permit change and provide added publicity for the Centre. The Centre will actively solicit special feature exhibits for specified time periods.

3. Outdoor Demonstration and Exhibit Component

The outdoor demonstrations and exhibits provide the visitor with opportunities to explore and evaluate a particular

Storyline: Picture history following ancestry of a present day hockey star. Final image of 30 yr. old hockey star cradling 1 yr. old ash seedling and his 5 yr. old son holding new 111 yr. old hockey stick.



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Indoor Exhibit: Growth of a Hockey Stick

The Kortright Centre for Conservation

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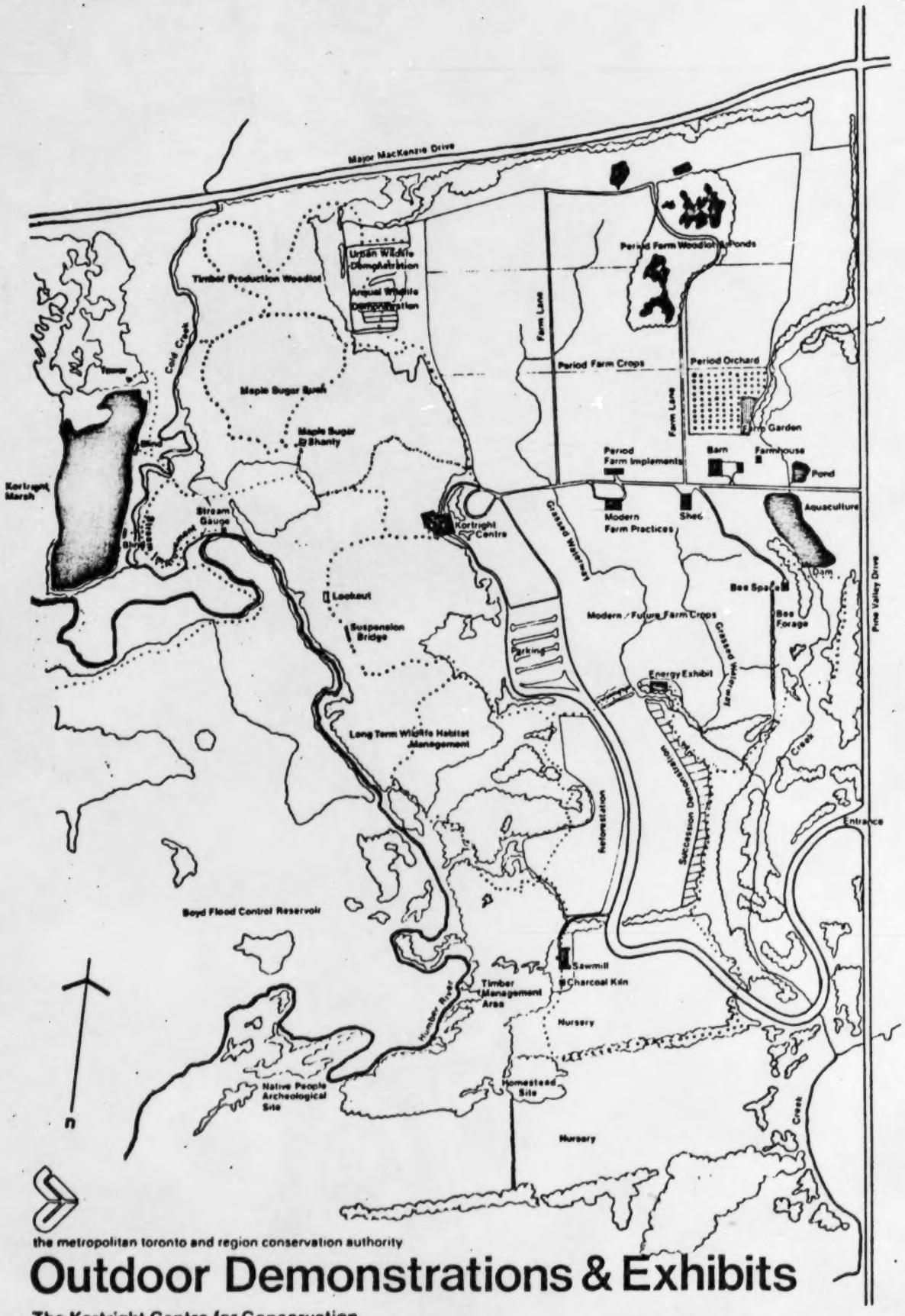

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Outdoor Demonstrations & Exhibits

The Kortright Centre for Conservation

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management technique for himself. Natural and more intensively managed systems will be compared. The natural components are:

- the interpretive trails
- the succession demonstration
- the natural woodlot

The components related to management are:

- the managed sugar bush
- the managed timber woodlot
- the reforestation area
- the sawmill

The Interpretive Trails: The greatest asset for the Kortright Centre is the trail system. Several loops of trail go through the reforestation area, sawmill site, natural woodlots and maple syrup demonstrations. New trails will be constructed to connect to the woodlot managed for timber production and the succession demonstration. There will be a minimum of signs. Visitors will either be led by Authority staff or self-guided by a printed trail guide.

The Succession Demonstration: Begun in 1975, the 0.4 ha demonstration now has three adjoining plots showing the natural progression from cultivated field to beech/maple forest. A new plot is added each year. Signs will be established to indicates the last mowing date for each plot. The demonstration will have a 35-year cycle. A path along the established fence will give visitors a close look at the vegetation as it changes from field to scrub to more advanced forest species.

The Natural Woodlot: To contrast managed and unmanaged situations, a managed and natural woodlot will be side by side. In the natural woodlot there will be examples of over-crowding, over-maturity, over-population of "weed" species, damaged or diseased stems and simulated grazing. It should be stressed that this natural woodlot indicates a type of management, and, for some purposes this might represent the wisest use of the resource.

The Managed Sugar Bush: The maple syrup demonstration is virtually complete. It consists of a black kettle demonstration, complete with open fire, woodshed and sled, and a more contemporary sugar shack. The sugar shack demonstrates a modern collection tube system for 350 trees, stainless steel holding tanks and an advanced evaporator.

The maple bush demonstrates the effect of thinning, a useful management practice which ensures good growth of the understorey and a ready supply of fuel.
One further elaboration will be a demonstration of future considerations, showing examples of grafting sugar-rich buds onto saplings.

The Woodlot Managed for Timber Production: Two hectares of mature beech/maple woods have been set aside on the Master Plan to become a managed woodlot. This will be used to demonstrate the Authority's management practices and to show that healthy regeneration follows judicious cutting.

A 0.5 km trail through the woodlot will be constructed to take the visitor near recently cut trees. After the first major preparation in winter of 1979, only one or two trees will be removed each year so there will always be examples of recent release from canopy cover indicated by increased growth rates in the understorey. Examples of the five

major species and dates of cutting will be indicated.

The Reforestation Demonstration: This 1.5 ha demonstration will indicate that conifers planted on slopes prevent erosion. In 1975, three species were planted in six blocks of pure stands and mixtures. The blocks will eventually be labelled with species information and planting date. Plots showing planting, thinning and pruning practices will be compared with plots left unmanaged.

In addition to the conifer plantation, there is a 40m x 120m demonstration which shows the method of establishing hardwoods in uncultivated ground by the use of herbicides.

The Nursery: The Authority will establish a 5 ha nursery operation south of the sawmill. It will be enhanced by special features which facilitate interpretation. This will demonstrate the extension service of the Authority which is available to landowners in the watershed.

The Sawmill: The Kortright sawmill has been established as a focal point of the forestry program. It is here where an end result of management of the resource is most evident. The sawmill contains contemporary equipment, such as a head saw, cut-off saw, edger, planer and associated conveyors and power plant. The wooden building, itself, is a demonstration of wood use. It will contain exhibits to show the transitional steps from logs to lumber, different kinds of grades of lumber and lumber by-products. There will be piles of logs, lumber and sawdust.

For atmosphere and interpretation, there will be displays of lumbering equipment used at the turn of the century. These will be items such as cross-cutsaws, axe heads and horse gear. A display will also portray future lumbering machines, such as laser saws and hovercraft tractors. Contemporary lumbering practices will be elaborated on through exhibits which describe planting machines, harvesting and transportation

equipment, fire, pest protection and the development of new fast growing hybrids.

Associated with the sawmill will be a small charcoal kiln to demonstrate on site one of the many uses of sawmill waste. This is the smallest model which retains some of the burning characteristics of industrial kilns.

4. The Sales Component

Articles for sale will be made available as a service to the visitor. It is hoped these will continue to develop the visitor's interest in forest conservation and encourage participation in conservation practices. Profits will contribute to the revenue of the Centre.

Publications

In order to satisfy the need for more in-depth information, a small number of publications will be made available:

- ABOUT PULP AND PAPER -- a small booklet outlining the importance, history and production of paper -- produced by Abitibi Paper Co. Ltd.;
- THE FARM WOODLOT -- a guide to planting, thinning and cutting in a farm woodlot -- produced by the Ministry of Natural Resources;
- FOREST TREE PLANTING -- a guide to planting conifers -- produced by the Ministry of Natural Resources;
- THE FOREST TREES OF ONTARIO -- a guide to their identification, by J. H. White -- produced by the Ministry of Natural Resources;
- THE KORTRIGHT SUGAR BUSH -- a guide to the Kortright Demonstration -- produced by The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority;

- KORTRIGHT TREE AND SHRUB CHECK-LIST -- one page, The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority;

- NATIVE TREES OF CANADA -- Environment Canada;

- OUT OF THE WOODS --- a colourfull single sheet showing Ontario forests and forest products -- produced by the Ministry of Natural Resources;

- THE PULPWOOD TREE -- a large colour chart indicating the parts of a tree and the products of pulpwood -- produced by Abitibi Paper Co. Ltd.;

- SUGAR BUSH MANAGEMENT FOR MAPLE SYRUP PRODUCERS -- a booklet giving a history and outline of modern management practices -- produced by the Ministry of Natural Resources;

Merchandise

The following items relate to the use of forest products and will be offered for sale:

Hardwood Cutting Board
Tree Seed Kits
Forest Art Work
Fireplace Bundles (for sale at sawmill)
Wood Carving Kits (blades, wood, and pattern)
Rulers "Use Without Using Up"
Walnut Seeds -- treated to germinate
Maple Syrup Home-Tapping Kit
Honey Dipper
Pencils
Hasty Notes
Bird House Kits
Plywood Sun Dial Kit
Charcoal (for sale at sawmill)

Food

In most cases, the food service at the Kortright Centre for Conservation will relate directly to the Land Theme. However, the following items do complete the development of the Forestry Theme and will be offered for sale:

Ice Cream (the thickener is a forest product)

Maple Syrup and Candy

Walnuts

VIII PROGRAMMING

(1) Group Visits

Groups will arrange their visits through their school, guide/scout troop, senior citizen club or other organization. They will usually have a specific interest and a special theme tour will be arranged in advance. These tours may be booked from Monday to Saturday. A preplanning informative booklet will be mailed to the group with the confirmation of the reservation.

In general, each group will be met in the Visitors Centre. One guide will be provided for each twenty-five persons. The theatre introduction to the theme will be followed by a viewing of the Indoor Exhibits, which relate to the theme. All theme tours will involve an excursion to the outdoor demonstration led by an Authority staff member. The group will then return to the Visitors Centre to shop at the store or eat at the snack bar.

(2) The General Public

The Centre will be open to the general public every Sunday. Visitors will be welcomed by a receptionist who will outline the program for the day. The visitor will be invited to view the periodic audio/visual introduction or spend some

time with the indoor exhibits. Guided excursions on the interpretive trails will begin at regular intervals. Visitors wishing a less structured experience will be able to follow a guide map through the related exhibits and find their own way to the demonstrations. Skilled demonstrators will be on hand to answer questions. Visitors will be encouraged to participate in the demonstration whenever possible. During special events, specialists will be invited to give lectures on specific topics.

(3) Seminars, Meetings and Banquets

The Kortright Visitors Centre provides excellent facilities for seminars, meetings and banquets from Monday through Saturday. Many groups wishing to book the Centre may not have conservation as their primary interest. These groups should be encouraged to attend at times when regular programs are not fully booked. These occasions provide the Authority with an unique opportunity to communicate its message to people who might not ordinarily come to a regular program. The following list of possible events is a progression which corresponds to the degree of input by Authority staff:

(1) Welcome to the Kortright Centre;

(2) Introduction to the Kortright Centre and Program;

(3) Introduction to The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority and the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Foundation;

(4) Audio/Visual Presentation:
- passive presentation
- 20 years in review
- Theme Presentation

(5) Balcony, Bird Feeder, Weather Station Visit -- a short sample of an interpretive program;

(6) Noon hour or after dinner excursions on an interpretive trail;

(7) Food service and sale of merchandise. These activities, though commercial to a degree, may also contribute to the visitor's understanding of conservation.